THE ROLE OF THE AUDIT TIME BUDGET IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF AUDITOR COMPETENCY, INDEPENDENCE, AND EXPERIENCE ON AUDIT QUALITY

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the effect of auditor competence, independence and experience on audit quality with audit time budget as a moderating variable. This study uses primary data with data collection methods using questionnaires with purposive sampling method on 70 auditors at the Public Accounting Firm (KAP) DKI Jakarta area. The findings of this study indicate that auditor competence has a significant positive effect on audit quality. Furthermore, auditor independence has a significant positive effect on audit quality and auditor experience has a significant positive effect on audit quality. The results of the next test prove that the audit time budget moderates the effect of auditor competence on audit quality. However, the audit time budget does not moderate the independence and experience of auditors on audit quality.

Keywords: Audit Quality, Audit Time Budget

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of audit time budget on the relationship between competence, independence, and auditor experience on audit quality. Audit quality is all possibilities (probability) where the auditor when auditing the client's financial statements can find violations that occur in the client's accounting system and report them in the audited financial statements, and in carrying out their duties guided by auditing standards and the relevant Public accountant code of ethics (Kartika & Scouts, 2019). Information relating to the submission of financial reports must have two main characteristics, namely relevant and reliable, one of the policies adopted by the company is to carry out an examination of the company's financial statements by a third party, namely the auditor as a party that is considered independent.

Many factors affect audit quality, including competence (Alim et al., 2007; Furiady & Kurnia, 2015; Kartika & Pramuka, 2019; Syamsuddin, 2017; Zarefar & Zarefar, 2016), independence (Alim et al., 2007; Imansari & Halim, 2017; Kartika & Pramuka, 2019; Kertarajasa et al., 2019; Mardjiwuono & Subianto, 2018; Syamsuddin, 2017), due professional care (Kertarajasa et al., 2019), experience (Cahan & Sun, 2015; Furiady & Kurnia, 2015; Haeridistia & Fadjarenie, 2019; Kertarajasa et al., 2019; Zarefar & Zarefar, 2016), professionalism (Kartika & Pramuka, 2019; Mardjiwuono & Subianto, 2018; Syamsuddin, 2017), auditor ethics (Alim et al., 2007; Syamsuddin, 2017), skepticism (Mardjiwuono & Subianto, 2018; Syamsuddin, 2017), accountability (Furiady & Kurnia, 2015). However, this study only examines the effect of auditor competence, independence and experience on audit quality. This is done because all three are closely related to the level of qualifications that an auditor has to carry out an audit properly, investigate the attitude and behavior of the auditor in examining the client's financial statements and are related to the level of understanding of the auditor in the formation of auditor competence (Al-Hadrami et al., 2020; Haeridistia & Fadjarenie, 2019; Kartika & Scouts, 2019).

Therefore, these three factors are very interesting to be tested in one research model.

Several previous studies regarding the relationship between the three factors above and audit quality have not found consistent results. Some studies have found that the relationship between auditor competence and audit quality is positive (Barndt et al., 2016; Furiady & Kurnia, 2015; Kartika & Pramuka, 2019; Nehme et al., 2016; Pickett, 2000), but (Hikmayah & Aswar, 2020; Susanto et al., 2020) found the opposite result. Furthermore, Lowe et al. (2018), (Young, 2006), found positive results on the relationship between auditor independence and audit quality. However, Syamsuddin (2017) found negative results for the relationship between the two variables. Finally, several previous studies have found a positive relationship between auditor experience and audit quality (Furiady & Kurnia, 2015; Haeridistia & Fadjarenie, 2019; Lusy et al., 2017; Zahmatkesh & Rezazadeh, 2017; Zarefar & Zarefar, 2016). However, Halim et al. (2017) found negative results on testing the relationship between auditor experience and audit quality.

The various findings of these studies mostly indicate a normative matter on the influence of auditor competence,
independence, and experience on audit quality. They explain in their research that competence, independence, and experience are closely related to the breadth of knowledge and the amount of auditor experience and attitudes that are free from the influence of other parties (Alim et al., 2007; Furiady & Kurnia, 2015; Haeridistia & Fadjarenie, 2019; Imansari & Halim, 2017; Kartika & Scouts, 2019; Mardijuwono & Subianto, 2018; Zahmatkesh & Rezazadeh, 2017). However, Susanto et al. (2020) stated that the implementation of audits that are in accordance with auditing standards accompanied by sufficient knowledge and experience does not guarantee a quality audit. This is related to the existence of a tight time budget causing stress for the auditor because the audit implementation is not in accordance with the audit plan resulting in low audit quality.

The phenomenon regarding audit quality is often found by the Financial Services Authority (OJK). According to the OJK, many companies listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange (IDX) have an "unqualified" opinion on their financial statements, however, after a re-examination by the OJK, the results indicated that these companies provided financial reports that were not in accordance with the actual financial conditions. Therefore, this study is interested in examining the moderating effect of audit time budget on the relationship between of auditor competence, independence, and experience on audit quality.

Furthermore, the data used in this study is primary data obtained from distributing questionnaires to 70 auditor managers, senior auditors, and junior auditors at 35 public accounting firms (KAP) in the East Jakarta area which are registered with the Financial Services Authority (OJK) and the Directory. Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IAPI). Research and data collection will be carried out in 2021. The results of this study prove that auditor competence, independence, and experience have a positive and significant relationship with audit quality. However, when the audit time budget is interacted with these variables, the results of the audit time budget only moderate the relationship between auditor competence and audit quality. This study suspects that an auditor who is faced with a tight audit time budget will have the ability to manage time well. König (2007) states that someone who can do time management will be able to organize, schedule, and budget the available time to produce effective performance. Therefore, an auditor who is faced with a tight time budget is better able to carry out time management better so as to increase his competence and ultimately improve his audit quality. This is different from what was explained by Hikmayah & Aswar (2020).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Audit Quality

Audit quality is a process to ensure that an auditor has consistently carried out audit assignments in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (Jusuf, 2017). Kartika & Pramuka (2019) explains that audit quality reflects the level of possibility the auditor will find violations committed by clients regarding the presentation of their financial statements. In addition, the implementation of a quality audit also ensures that the auditor has implemented audit procedures in accordance
with the relevant Auditing Standards and Code of Public Accountants. The auditor must be able to ensure that the information relating to the submission of the client's financial statements meets two main characteristics, namely relevant and reliable (Mardijuwono & Subianto, 2018).

**Auditor Competency and Audit Quality**

Auditor competence is the qualification required by the auditor to carry out the audit properly. Education and training is needed for auditors known as continuing professional education. The results of research conducted by Furiady et al. (2015) found that competency has a positive and significant influence on audit quality. They state that the knowledge and experience they have can be applied in conducting audits, so that auditors can conduct audits carefully, accurately and objectively. Consistent results were found by Pickett (2000). Auditors who have superior or effective performance in a job or situation can be better at detecting material misstatements in financial statements.

Meanwhile, Barndt et al. (2016) stated that the positive effect of auditor competence on audit quality is because competent auditors will find it easier to carry out their work compared to incompetent auditors. However, Susanto et al. (2020) found opposite results, namely that auditor competence has a negative and significant effect on audit quality. They found that when auditors have carried out audits with the knowledge and skills they have and are in accordance with applicable auditing standards, the resulting audit quality is actually low. This is suspected of having the effect of setting a time budget that is too tight so that it makes the auditor stressed because they have to complete their work as quickly as possible in accordance with the audit plan.

However, this was denied by Abdullah (2020) in his research which supports the findings that auditor competence has a positive and significant effect on audit quality. He stated that the level of competence indicates that the auditor has extensive knowledge so that it can increase investor and creditor confidence in financial reports prepared by management so as to reduce information discrepancies between managers and shareholders. Based on this, this study formulates hypothesis 1 as follows:

**H1:** Auditor competence has a positive effect on audit quality

**Auditor Independence and Audit Quality**

Auditor independence means being free from the influence of other people, not depending on others and being honest in considering facts and having objective considerations in formulating and expressing opinions. (Mardijuwono & Subianto, 2018). Bierstaker et al., (2018) found that auditor independence has a positive and significant effect on audit quality. Auditors with a high attitude of independence will not be easily influenced by other people for the benefit of certain parties. These findings are supported by Young (2006) which explains that the greater the independence of the auditor, the better the resulting audit quality. This happens because the level of independence reflects the independent attitude of the auditor over the influence of other people so that the results of his work can be used as a basis for decision making.

In line with these findings, Sarwoko & Agoes (2014) found a significant positive effect between auditor independence and
audit quality. They argue that auditor independence is the main basis for public trust in the public accounting profession and is also one of the most important factors in assessing the quality of audit services in conducting a thorough examination to provide an objective auditor's opinion. However, Syamsuddin (2017) found that auditor independence has a negative effect on audit quality. This is due to the lack of an attitude of independence of the auditor that can result in the auditor being more easily influenced by evidence of audit findings or incited to commit fraud in forming an opinion on the client's financial statements which indicates good audit quality.

However, these findings are disputed by (Sarwoko & Agoes, 2014) who found auditor independence to have a positive and significant effect on audit quality. According to them, if an auditor is able to act independently then he will be able to give a real assessment of the audited financial statements without having any burden on any party so that his assessment will reflect the actual conditions of the company being audited. The research results that support Halim et al. (2017) by stating that the higher the independence of the auditor, the better the resulting audit quality, without independence, the audit detection task to determine material misstatement is questionable (Nehme et al., 2016). Based on this, this study formulates hypothesis 2 as follows:

H2: Auditor independence has a positive effect on audit quality

Auditor Experience and Audit Quality

Auditor experience makes an important contribution in producing audit quality. Experienced auditors have extensive knowledge and a more developed thought structure compared to inexperienced auditors (Cahan & Sun, 2015). Inexperienced auditors will contribute more errors compared to experienced auditors and can ultimately affect audit quality (Zarefar & Zarefar, 2016). Research conducted by Haeridistia & Fadjarenie (2019) proves that auditor experience has a positive effect on audit quality. Experienced auditors have more in-depth knowledge about errors and fraud so that they will produce good performance in producing quality audits. In addition, Andayani (2017) found similar results, the higher the auditor's experience, the higher the audit quality produced.

This is in line with research by Furiady & Kurnia (2015) which states that a large amount of audit work experience can provide a high level of precision and accuracy in producing audit quality. The higher the auditor's experience, the more it will generate various kinds of allegations and explain audit evidence (Zahmatkesh & Rezazadeh, 2017). Experience is needed in order to carry out the obligations as an auditor towards his duties to meet auditing standards. The Public Accountant Professional Standards (SPAP) state that the requirements demanded of an independent auditor are having adequate education and experience (Kuntari et al., 2017). However, research conducted by Halim et al. (2017) found the opposite result. This is because auditors who have longer experience at work will actually produce lower audit quality. Auditors who have long working hours should be more thorough in carrying out audit work, but a lack of accuracy when detecting findings in financial statements can occur in experienced auditors.

This was refuted by research conducted by Zarefar et al., (2016) which found that auditor experience had a positive
effect on audit quality. Experienced auditors are likely to have a high professional level so that it will be easier to understand problems and look for causes of errors in financial statements. Based on this, this study formulates hypothesis 3 as follows:

H3: Auditor experience has a positive effect on audit quality

Auditor Competency, Independence and Experience, Audit Time Budget and Audit Quality

Auditor competence, independence and experience are factors that have a substantial influence on audit quality. All three determine the professionalism of the auditor. However, the pressure that a person feels can have an impact on improving performance or vice versa. One of the pressures faced by auditors is time pressure. Pressure that is too low or too high will decrease performance (Hsu et al., 2019).

On the other hand, time pressure can also have a positive impact on performance (König & Kleinmann, 2007). The existence of time pressure makes the auditor faced with the demands of completing tasks in accordance with the audit plan. This is what makes the auditor stressed and must be able to complete the audit work without being influenced by time constraints and any influence from management. Nurwahyuni & Isniawati (2021) found that the higher the time budget pressure, the better the auditor's ability to detect fraudulent financial statements. However, time budget pressure can have the opposite effect, increasing performance. This happens if the pressure is responded by an auditor by doing good time management. König (2007) states that someone who can do good time management will be able to organize, schedule, and budget the available time to produce effective performance (König & Kleinmann, 2007).

Halim et al. (2017) stated that the audit time budget weakens the auditor's competency in audit quality. This is because the pressure is so high that the auditor becomes stressed and chooses to quickly complete the audit work without being guided by the applicable auditing standards. According to Amalia et al. (2019) one of the sources of stress that comes from the organization is work demands. However, the time budget can have a good effect, namely supporting performance effectiveness (König & Kleinmann, 2007) so that it is expected to be able to strengthen the relationship between competence, independence and auditor experience on audit quality. Therefore, this study formulates hypotheses 4a, 4b, and 4c as follows:

H4a: The tighter the audit time budget, the higher the effect of auditor competence on audit quality
H4b: The tighter the audit time budget, the higher the effect of auditor independence on audit quality
H4c: The tighter the audit time budget, the higher the influence of the auditor's experience on audit quality

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses primary data obtained from distributing questionnaires to 70 respondents consisting of auditor managers, senior auditors, and junior auditors from 35 KAPs in the East Jakarta area. The research samples are KAPs registered with the OJK and the Directory of the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IAPI). This study uses moderated regression analysis to examines the moderating effect audit time budget on the relationship between auditor
competence, independence, and experience on audit quality in the 2021 period.

This study uses several indicators to measure auditor competency (Zahmatkesh & Rezazadeh, 2017), auditor independence (Imansari & Halim, 2017), auditor experience (Zarefar & Zarefar, 2016), audit time budget (Nehme et al., 2016), and audit quality (Kuntari et al., 2017).

The research instrument will be explained in table 1:

Table 1. Research Instrument

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit Quality</td>
<td>Auditors ability</td>
<td>Able to identify errors</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Generate accurate audit reports</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objektivity</td>
<td>Intellectually honest</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Not taking sides with anyone</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Free from conflict of interest</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independency</td>
<td>Have no personal interest</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Act with integrity and objectivity</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Auditing Standar</td>
<td>Examinations carried out must comply with auditing standards</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competence</td>
<td>Auditor Background</td>
<td>The nature and behavior of the auditor</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Auditors training</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Personal qualities</td>
<td>Likert</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a research model for estimating the relationship between auditor competence, independence, and experience on audit quality:

\[
\text{Quality} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \text{Compt} + \alpha_2 \text{Indep} + \alpha_3 \text{Exp} + \alpha_4 \text{Compt*TimeBudg} + e \ldots (1)
\]

Next is a research model to estimate the moderating effect audit time budget on the relationship between auditor competence, independence, and audit experience on audit quality:

\[
\text{Quality} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \text{Compt} + \alpha_2 \text{Indep} + \alpha_3 \text{Exp} + \alpha_4 \text{Indep*TimeBudg} + e \ldots (2)
\]

\[
\text{Quality} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \text{Compt} + \alpha_2 \text{Indep} + \alpha_3 \text{Exp} + \alpha_4 \text{Exp*TimeBudg} + e \ldots (3)
\]

\[
\text{Quality} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \text{Compt} + \alpha_2 \text{Indep} + \alpha_3 \text{Exp} + \alpha_4 \text{Exp*TimeBudg} + e \ldots (4)
\]

Information:

Quality : KAPi audit quality in period t
Compt : KAPi auditor competency in period t
Indep : KAPi auditor independence in period t
Exp : KAPi auditor experience in period t
TimeBudg : KAPi audit time budget in period t.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive statistics for this study sample are presented in table 2. The table shows that the average score for audit quality (quality) is 85.93. This means that the value is close to the maximum score (95) so that it can be concluded that the respondents in this study had conducted a quality audit. Furthermore, the auditor competency variable (Compt) shows that from a sample of 105 respondents, the average answer is with a score of 103.95. This score is close to the maximum score of auditor competence (115). This means that the average auditor in the sample has an awareness of the importance of competency to produce a quality audit, good audits.
Table 2. Descriptive Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Quality</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>85.93</td>
<td>9.680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Compt</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>103.95</td>
<td>10.659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Indep</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>75.82</td>
<td>10.223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Exp</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>91.50</td>
<td>10.263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>TimeBudg</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>73.77</td>
<td>16.281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next, the average score of auditor independence shows that from a sample of 105 respondents, the average answer is with a score of 75.82. This score is more inclined to the maximum score (85) so that it can be explained that an auditor has an awareness of the importance of maintaining independence without having to be pressured by any party in producing good audit quality. The same thing can be seen in the score of the auditor's experience variable which shows an average value of 91.5. This value is closer to the maximum score (100) than the minimum score (40). Thus, it can be concluded that the average respondent in this study is an experienced auditor. Finally, the average score for the audit time budget variable (TimeBudg) has a value of 73.77. This figure is close to its maximum value (90). That is, this variable greatly affects the auditor's performance when carrying out audit work.

Table 3. Test Results of the Effect of Auditor Competency, Independence and Experience on Audit Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Path Coefficient</th>
<th>P_value</th>
<th>t_value</th>
<th>Ket</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compt -&gt; Quality</td>
<td>0.233</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>2.538</td>
<td>Sig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Independency -&gt; Quality</td>
<td>0.210</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>2.275</td>
<td>Sig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Experience -&gt; Quality</td>
<td>0.225</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>2.448</td>
<td>Sig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed with warpPLS 7.0 (2023)

Table 3 shows that the relationship between auditor competence and audit quality is positive (Path-Coeff.=0.233) and significant (p=0.006). This means that the higher the competence of an auditor, the better the quality of the audit produced. Thus, hypothesis 1 is accepted. An auditor really needs competence in order to have adequate knowledge and understanding regarding his duties in auditing financial statements. Adequacy of this knowledge and understanding can result in good audit quality and in accordance with applicable auditing standards. This is in line with the government's efforts to improve the competence and quality of members by establishing the IAPI Learning Center by the Indonesian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (IAPI) which is used for the implementation of the Continuing Professional Education Program (PPL).

Furthermore, table 3 also shows that the relationship between auditor independence and audit quality is positive (Path-Coeff.=0.210) and significant (p=0.012). This indicates that the high attitude of auditor independence will improve audit quality. The attitude of independence is fundamental so that the work results can be trusted. An auditor who has an attitude of independence will report all the results of his examination according to the facts. Thus, the results of the audit report reflect events and evidence that can be trusted so that it can be called a quality audit. This is in line with research by Sarwoko & Agoes (2014). Therefore, hypothesis 2 of this study is accepted.

The relationship between auditor experience and audit quality as shown in table 3 is positive (Path-Coeff. = 0.225) and significant (p = 0.008). That is, the higher the experience an auditor has, the better the quality of the audit he produces. An experienced auditor generally has extensive knowledge and a more developed thought...
structure than an auditor who has relatively little experience. The results of this study also support one of the applicable auditing standard statements which explain that auditors must increase audit work experience with many assignments in order to be able to overcome various kinds of problems in the client's financial statements. In addition, these results also support the research results of Haeridistia & Fadjarenie (2019) which explain that experienced auditors have more in-depth knowledge about errors and fraud so that they will produce good performance by producing quality audits. Thus, hypothesis 3 of this study is accepted.

Table 4. The results of the Test on the Effect of Audit Time Budget moderate the Competence, Independence, and Experience of Auditors on Audit Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>Path Coefficient</th>
<th>P Value</th>
<th>T Value</th>
<th>Des.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$TB^*AC \rightarrow AQ$</td>
<td>0.194</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>2.087</td>
<td>Sig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$TB^*AI \rightarrow AQ$</td>
<td>-0.007</td>
<td>0.470</td>
<td>-0.075</td>
<td>Not Sig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$TB^*AE \rightarrow AQ$</td>
<td>0.028</td>
<td>0.386</td>
<td>0.290</td>
<td>Not Sig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processed with warpPLS 7.0 (2023)

Table 4 shows that the relationship between audit time budget moderates auditor competence on auditor audit quality is positive (Path-Coeff.=0.19) and significant ($p=0.02$). This means that the audit time budget moderates the influence of auditor competence on audit quality. Thus Hypothesis 4a of this study is accepted. The time budget that has been determined when conducting an audit can influence the auditor in carrying out an audit of financial statements. The time budget is one of the toughest challenges for the auditor because apart from being required to produce good audit quality, the auditor is also required to perform time efficiency which can affect the auditor's performance. The results of this study are in line with the research of Halim et al. (2017) and Amalia et al (2019) which explain that the audit time budget moderates the auditor's competency on audit quality. This is because the pressure is so high that the auditor becomes stressed and chooses to quickly complete the audit work without being guided by the applicable auditing standards. One source of stress that comes from the organization is work demands. This can be seen from the smaller the audit time budget, the greater the effect of auditor competence on audit quality. Meanwhile, Nurwahyuni & Isniawati (2021) relate time budget pressure to the culture or habits prevailing in Indonesian society that places time budget pressure as a motivation to get work done effectively. This also applies to the auditor when conducting an audit so that with the time budget pressure the auditor is able to complete the audit on time and improve the auditor's ability to detect financial statement errors.

Furthermore, table 4 shows that the relationship between audit time budget moderating auditor independence on auditor audit quality is negative (Path-Coeff.=-0.007) and not significant ($p=0.47$). This means that the audit time budget does not moderate the auditor's independence on audit quality, which means that even though an auditor has a high attitude of independence, the audit time budget has not been able to strengthen or weaken the auditor's ability to produce audit quality. If related to theory, the time budget is one of the challenges that cannot be avoided by the auditor and often occurs in Indonesia, if this situation continues it will result in decreased auditor independence and will increase the risk of
the emergence of an inappropriate audit opinion and make the auditor easily believe the evidence. -evidence of audit findings when examining the client's financial statements. However, based on the tests that have been carried out, it is stated that the audit time budget cannot strengthen or weaken the effect of auditor independence on audit quality. Thus hypothesis 4b is rejected.

The relationship between the audit time budget moderates the auditor's experience of the auditor's audit quality as shown in table 4 which is positive (Path-Coeff. = 0.028) and not significant (p=0.386). This means that the audit time budget does not moderate the auditor's experience of audit quality, which means that even though an audit has a lot of experience, the audit time budget has not been able to strengthen or weaken the auditor's ability to produce audit quality. In theory, auditors who have longer work experience will find it easier to adapt their work to a tight audit time budget compared to auditors who have short work experience. The time budget has a very potential effect in generating pressure, triggered by the time budget not only as a control mechanism but also as an internal performance appraisal tool, but with sufficient experience the auditor will be able to balance between his work and the time budget that has been set. However, based on the tests that have been carried out, it is stated that the audit time budget cannot strengthen or weaken the influence of the auditor's experience on audit quality. Therefore hypothesis 4c is rejected.

**CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

This study examines the competence, independence, and experience of auditors on audit quality with audit time budget as a moderating variable in 16 Public Accounting Firms located in the East Jakarta area. The results of the study show that competence has a positive and significant effect on audit quality. The results indicated that the higher the competence of the auditor, the higher the quality of the audit produced. The test results of auditor independence on audit quality show a positive and significant effect. This shows that high and low independence can affect the auditor's ability to produce good audit quality. Furthermore, testing the auditor's experience on audit quality shows a positive and significant effect. The results indicated that the higher the auditor's experience, the higher the quality of the audit produced.

Furthermore, testing the audit time budget moderates the auditor's competency on audit quality indicating that the audit time budget is able to moderate the auditor's competency on audit quality. So it can be interpreted that a time budget that is too tight can affect the competence of the auditor and have an impact on the performance of the auditor in conducting an examination of the client's financial statements. Then, testing the audit time budget moderates auditor independence on audit quality indicating that the time budget is not able to moderate auditor independence on audit quality. These results indicate that even though an audit has a high attitude of independence, the implementation of the time budget has not been able to strengthen or weaken the quality of the resulting audit. Finally, testing the audit time budget moderates the auditor's experience of audit quality indicating that the time budget is not able to moderate the auditor's experience of audit quality. So it can be interpreted that even though the auditor has problems with experience, the application of an audit time
budget does not necessarily strengthen or weaken it in producing audit quality.

REFERENCES


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